Claims

I claim:

1. A method of marking a belt comprising the steps of:
selecting a first thermoplastic material that is optically distinguishable from a belt body;
joining the first thermoplastic material to the belt body; and
etching the first thermoplastic material in order to contrast the first thermoplastic material with the belt body.

2. The method as in claim 1 further comprising joining a second thermoplastic material which is optically distinguishable from the first thermoplastic material to the first thermoplastic material.

3. The method as in claim 2 further comprising etching the second thermoplastic material in order to contrast the second thermoplastic material with the first thermoplastic material.

4. The method as in claim 1, wherein etching comprises cutting a pattern into the first thermoplastic material.

5. The method as in claim 3, wherein etching comprises cutting a pattern into the second thermoplastic material.

6. The method as in claim 1 comprising forming transverse teeth in the belt.

7. The belt as in claim 1 comprising curing the belt with peroxide.

8. A belt comprising:
an elastomeric body;
a tensile member extending along the belt in a longitudinal direction;
a first thermoplastic layer applied to the elastomeric body; and
the first thermoplastic layer being optically distinguishable from the elastomeric body.

9. The belt as in claim 8 comprising:
a second thermoplastic layer adjacent to the first thermoplastic layer, the second thermoplastic layer is optically distinguishable from the first thermoplastic layer.

10. The belt as in claim 8 further comprising:
the first thermoplastic layer having an opening whereby a portion of the elastomeric body contrasts with the first thermoplastic layer.

11. The belt as in claim 10, wherein the opening comprises a pattern.

12. The belt as in claim 10, wherein the first thermoplastic layer is selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, polyamide, polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinyl chloride or a combination of any two or more of the foregoing.

13. The belt as in claim 10 further comprising transverse teeth on the elastomeric body.

14. The belt as in claim 10 further comprising:
the second thermoplastic layer having an opening whereby a portion of the second thermoplastic layer contrasts with the first thermoplastic layer.

15. The belt as in claim 14, wherein the second thermoplastic layer is selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, polyamide, polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinyl chloride or a combination of any two or more of the foregoing.

16. The belt as in claim 12 wherein the first thermoplastic material has a color different from an elastomeric body color.

17. The belt as in claim 15, wherein the second thermoplastic material has a color different from a first thermoplastic material color.

18. The belt as in claim 10, wherein the elastomeric body is selected from HNBR, EPDM, SBR, CR, NBR, NR or BR or a combination of any two or more of the foregoing.

19. A belt comprising:
an elastomeric body;
a tensile member extending along the belt in a longitudinal direction;

a thermoplastic layer applied to the elastomeric body; and

the thermoplastic layer being optically distinguishable from the elastomeric body.

20. The belt as in claim 19 further comprising:

the thermoplastic layer having an opening therein whereby a portion of the elastomeric body contrasts with the thermoplastic layer.

21. The belt as in claim 20, wherein the opening comprises a pattern.

22. The belt as in claim 20, wherein the thermoplastic layer is selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, polyamide, polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinyl chloride or a combination of any two or more of the foregoing.

23. The belt as in claim 20 further comprising transverse teeth on the elastomeric body.

24. The belt as in claim 20 wherein the first thermoplastic material has a color different from an elastomeric body color.

25. The belt as in claim 20, wherein the elastomeric body is selected from HNBR, EPDM, SBR, CR, NBR, NR, BR or a combination of any two or more of the foregoing.

26. The belt as in claim 20, wherein the thermoplastic layer is visually distinguishable from the belt body.

27. The method as in claim 1, wherein etching comprises using a laser light to create a pattern in the first thermoplastic material.

28. The method as in claim 3, wherein etching comprises using a laser light to create a pattern in the second thermoplastic material.